TE TO KUCHI

STORY: OOSAKI TOMOHITO • ART: KAWASHITA MIZUKI

CHAPTER 09
「ORIN'S MISFORTUNE」

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TYPESETTING: 「SERGIO」

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*TL NOTE: THE READING PROVIDED IS "THORNS", BUT THE KANJI USED IS "KATANA"

WITH BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS, YOU WILL FIND THORNS*

JC第②巻本日発売!!

CHAPTER 09
「ORIN'S MISFORTUNE」

STORY/ OOSAKI TOMOHITO

ART/ KAWASHITA MIZUKI

てとくち
te to ku chi
Seeking requests
Disputes Lost items Security
Benriya Rie
and Shuusuke
Fees negotiable
... WHICH MEANS
WELL, I GUESS THAT'S THE DEAL.
I WAS REALLY AGAINST IT THOUGH.
THAT YOU'RE OFFICIALLY THE BENRIYA'S ASSISTANT?
YOU'RE
TODAY'S ANOTHER DAY OF PASSING OUT FLYERS-...
PLEASE TAKE A LOOK
AH, WE'RE A BENRIYA HERE.
IT MUST BE NICE, SINCE YOU GET TO BE WITH A BEAUTIFUL GIRL LIKE HER.

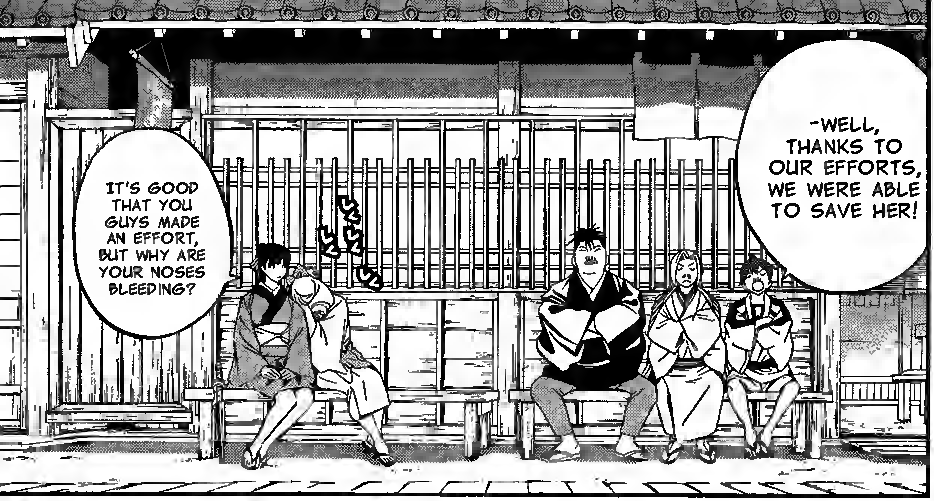
EVEN IF WE'RE TOGETHER, IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE LIVING TOGETHER.
BESIDES, SHE'S SUPER UNSOCIABLE, AND SHE NEVER SAYS ANYTHING.
IT MAKES ME WANT TO JUST SCREAM SOMETIMES .....
IT'S TOO QUIET!!
BUHAAHH
HA— HA—
... SO I JUST CAME OUT ON MY OWN TO PASS OUT FLYERS AROUND TOWN.
THAT MUST BE TOUGH FOR A CHATTY CATHY LIKE YOU...
BUT WHY DO WE HAVE TO PASS OUT FLYERS TOO?

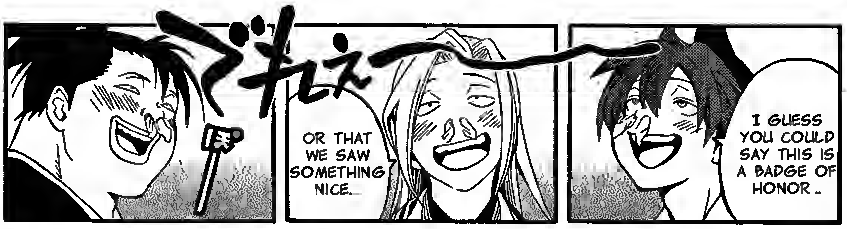
BUT, DO THESE FLYERS EVEN MAKE A DIFFERENCE?
SURE THEY DO.
BESIDES, IF I SAT IN THE TENEMENTS JUST SPACING OUT...
MM?
HAA

YEAH, SHE LIVES IN THE SAME TENEMENTS AS RIE-SAN...
SHE'S PRETTY...
HUH? ISN'T THAT NEE-CHAN...
SOMEONE YOU KNOW?
.....
EHHHHH?!
ずん!

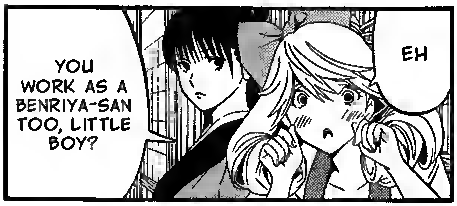
STOP! DON'T GO THINKING OF KILLING YOURSELF!!
NOO~ LET GO~
HEEEY! WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?!!
S, SEN-TAROU!
OKAY!
ぴたぱた ぴたぱた
WAHH!
PLEASE, JUST LET ME DIE!
HEAVE!
BOING

TL NOTE THE WORD USED HERE IS "MINAGE", WHICH MEANS TO KILL YOURSELF SPECIFICALLY BY THROWING YOURSELF INTO WATER.


-WELL, THANKS TO OUR EFFORTS, WE WERE able TO SAVE HER!
IT'S GOOD THAT YOU GUYS MADE AN EFFORT, BUT WHY ARE YOUR NOSES BLEEDING?


I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THIS IS A BADGE OF HONOR..
OR THAT WE SAW SOMETHING NICE...

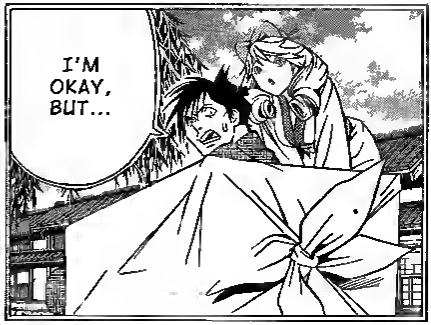
ACTUALLY, IF THERE'S A REASON, YOU CAN TALK TO ME ABOUT IT!
I WORK AT RIE-SAN'S PLACE TOO, YOU KNOW.

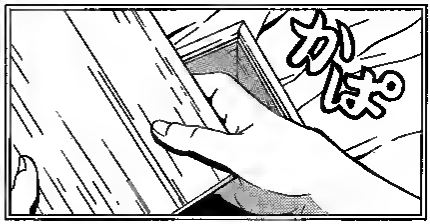

EH
YOU WORK AS A BENRIYA-SAN TOO, LITTLE BOY?

I WANTED TO DIE-!
ARE YOU CRYING ABOUT THAT AGAIN~

TL NOTE: FUDOU MYOUOU. A BUDDHIST DEITY.

LOOK AT THIS BOWL!
HEY, HEY, LOOK WHAT YOU DID HERE.


I'M OKAY, BUT...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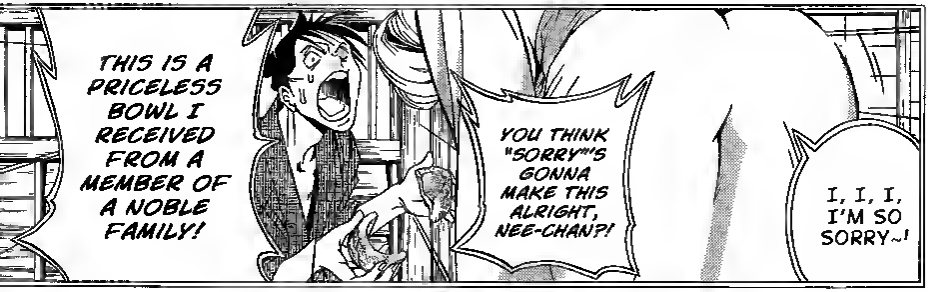
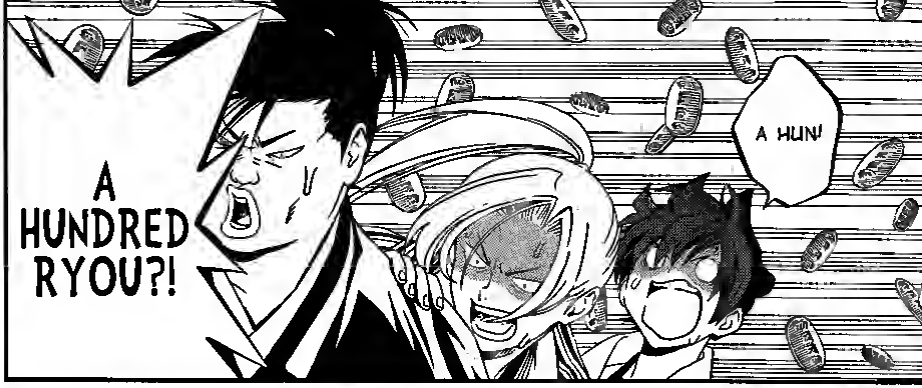

THIS IS A PRICELESS BOWL I RECEIVED FROM A MEMBER OF A NOBLE FAMILY!
YOU THINK "SORRY"'S GONNA MAKE THIS ALRIGHT, NEE-CHAN?!
I, I, I, I'M SO SORRY~!

LET ME SEE...

I NEED PAYMENT, PAYMENT!!
EEK
H, HOW MUCH DO I HAVE TO PAY...


A HUNDRED RYOU?!
A HUN!

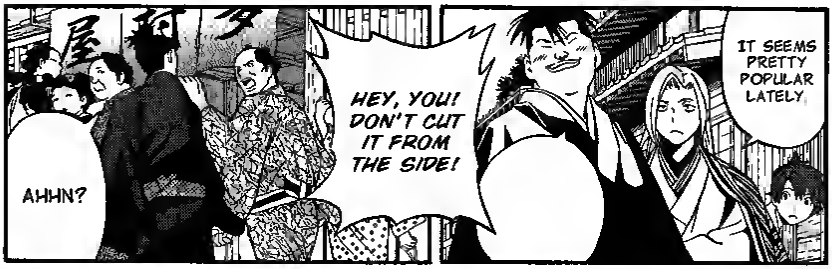
BUT THAT MAN
HOW COULD I POSSIBLY PAY A HUNDRED RYOU.....
SO I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO-
HE SAID, 「IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE MONEY, THEN YOU CAN JUST PAY WITH YOUR BODY」...
AND SO, SUICIDE...

A CON.
BUT, YOU KNOW, WITHOUT A DOUBT, THAT WAS...
HE BROKE A BOWL AHEAD OF TIME , AND PUT IT INSIDE THE BOX.
THEN... HE BUMPS INTO YOU ON PURPOSE AND BLAMES IT ON YOU.
OF COURSE IT WAS!!
A CON...?
OHHH!
THAT MEANIE -!

BUT, WHAT SHOULD I DO~
I TOLD HIM I WOULD PAY HIM, AND I EVEN TOLD HIM WHERE MY HOUSE IS~
TH, THANK YOU...
I STOPPED THE BLEEDING.
WE CALL OUT THAT CON ARTIST BASTARD.
YOU FLASH HIM WITH YOUR WAKIZASHI AND GIVE HIM A LITTLE GLARE- AND THE GUYS SHOULD JUST BACK OFF.
WAIT, ISN'T THIS WHERE YOU COME IN, RIE-SAN?!
SHUUSUKE, YOU CAN DO SOMETHING WITH YOUR USUAL TALKING.
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE
THAT'S RIGHT! YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO TALK YOUR WAY OUT OF IT.
GUH...
BASED ON THE STORY ALONE, IT'S CLEAR THAT THE BOWL INCIDENT WAS A SWINDLE, HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO PROOF OF THAT.
I DON'T MIND DOING THAT, BUT WE'LL BE LUCKY IF THAT DOESN'T ELLICIT A GRUDGE TOWARDS ORIN-SAN... ALSO,

THE SET UP IS SO SIMPLE, IT MAKES IT HARD TO GRAB HIS TAIL, HUH-
AH-AH
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS HAPPENED ON MY WAY BACK FROM VISITING OFUDOU-SAN..
I CAN NEVER CATCH A BREAK IN MY LIFE.
DADDY MET A GIRL WHEN I WAS LITTLE AND LEFT THE HOUSE.
AND MY MOM, WHO WAS SICK FOR A LONG TIME, PASSED AWAY LAST SPRING.
I DON'T EVEN HAVE ANY RELATIVES TO RELY ON ANYMORE.
D... DON'T BE SO RASH!
THERE HAS TO BE A WAY.....
DO I... REALLY HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO DO WHAT THAT GUY SAYS...
ALRIGHT, PLEASE LINE UP WITHOUT PUSHING.

TL NOTE: JAPANESE CONFECTIONARY



A FEW DAYS LATER...
WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TALK TO ME ABOUT ALL THE WAY OUT HERE?
U... UMMM- ABOUT THE 100 RYOU FROM BEFORE...
JUST SO YOU KNOW, I'M NOT LETTING YOU SLIDE FOR EVEN ONE MON
-OR IS THERE SOMETHING ELSE?

HEY!
NO, THAS NOT IH, UHH.....
IF YOU'RE GONNA TELL ME YOU HAVE NO MONET AND THAT YOU'LL PAY WITH YOUR BODY, THEN WE CAN START RIGHT.....
THERE YOU ARE, ORIN!

TH, THAT'S NOT IT~!
L, LOAN?
EEK.....!
YOU DON'T EVEN PAY BACK YOUR LOAN BUT YOU'RE OUT ON A DATE WITH SOME GUY, YOU SHAMELESS WHORE?!
SO WE NEED TO HAVE THE GUY GIVE UP ON HIS OWN.
ON HIS OWN?
RIGHT
FOR THAT, ORIN-SAN, I NEED YOU TO PLAY THE PART OF A GIRL IN DEBT.
AND YOU GUYS, WILL PLAY THE LOAN SHARKS
AH, RIE-SAN, YOU TOO.
PLAY A ROLE, HE SAYS.....

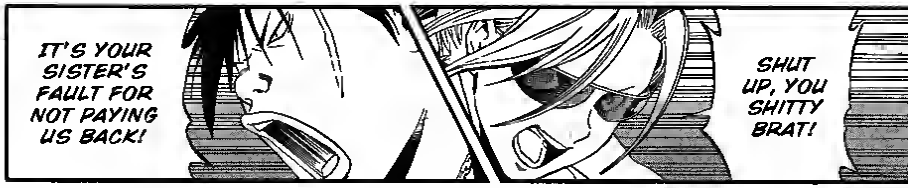
THAT PHONY BASTARD WANTS TO TAKE MONEY FROM ORIN-SAN,
YOU THINK HE'LL FORGET ABOUT THE LOAN SHARKS AND MAKE HER PAY?
BUT THAT ORIN-SAN HAS SOME SCARY LOAN SHARKS FOLLOWING HER AROUND.
WHAT DO YOU THINK'LL HAPPEN?
IF IT WERE ME, I'D GIVE UP AND LOOK FOR ANOTHER TARGET.
SO THAT'S THE PLAY WE'RE GOING TO PUT ON
I SEE...
SO YOU GUYS NEED TO BE THE SCARIEST LOAN SHARKS YOU CAN BE.
AH... OF COURSE, I'LL COME UP WITH THE LINES.....
HEY, HEY, NII-CHAN!
ARE YOU GOOD BUDDIES WITH ORIN?!
NO WAY!
HEY, ORIN! DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH MONEY YOUOVE BORROWED FROM MY BUSINESS?
200 RYOU, DAMN IT, 200!

2, 200 RYOU...!
I TOLD YOU OVER AND OVER TO PAY ME BACK, BUT YOU HAVEN'T GIVEN ME ANYTHING, YOU BITCH!!
SENTAROU-SAN'S ACTING IS TOO GOOD

WE'RE THE BIGGEST, BADDEST YAKUZA GROUP, WITH 10,000 HENCHMEN ALL THROUGHOUT THE KANTO AREA.
WE'RE 「SENKAN IKKA」*
(AD LIB)
10,000... HENCHMEN...
STOP IT, YOU LOAN SHARKS!

*T.L NOTE THE "SEN" IS FROM SENTAROU'S NAME. AND "KAN" IS FROM KANTA'S. "IKKA" MEANS ONE HOUSE OR FAMILY.

SHUUSUKE!
LEAVE ONEE-CHAN ALONE!
ドゴ!!
AH
THESE TWO ARE SET UP AS SIBLINGS.


IT'S YOUR SISTER'S FAULT FOR NOT PAYING US BACK!
SHUT UP, YOU SHITTY BRAT!

YOU STUPID! I TOLD YOU TO ACT LIKE YOU'RE KICKING ME!

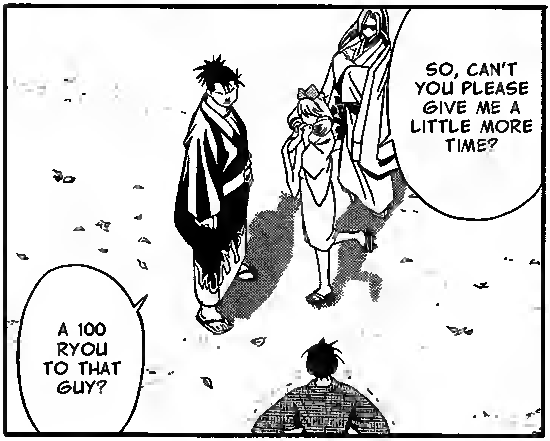
YOU IDIOT! HE'LL FIGURE IT OUT IF WE DON'T DO IT FOR REAL!

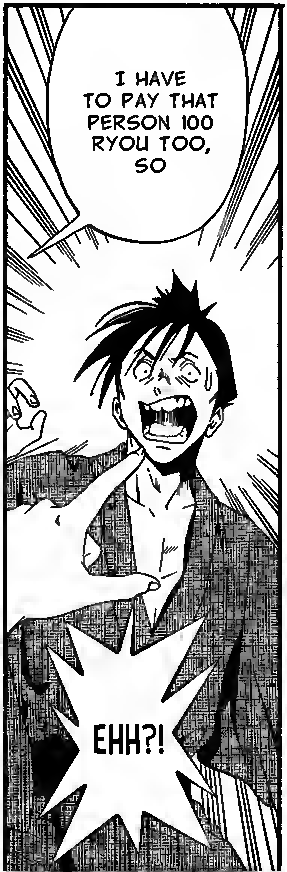
KYAH-
OWW, IT HURTS, IT HURTS!

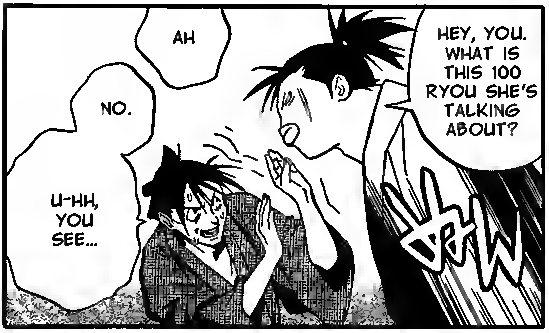
GLOW
ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS TO PEOPLE TO TAKE US TOO LIGHTLY!
ANEGO*! DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD TEACH THIS GIRL A LITTLE LESSON?
SLICE
HYA HHH HH-!!!

TL NOTE – AN HONORIFIC VERSION OF "ONEE-SAN" YOU KNOW, BECAUSE THEY'RE PART OF A YAKUZA

I'LL BE SURE TO GIVE YOU THE MONEY! BUT I
U, UMM!
.....


SO, CAN'T YOU PLEASE GIVE ME A LITTLE MORE TIME?
A 100 RYOU TO THAT GUY?

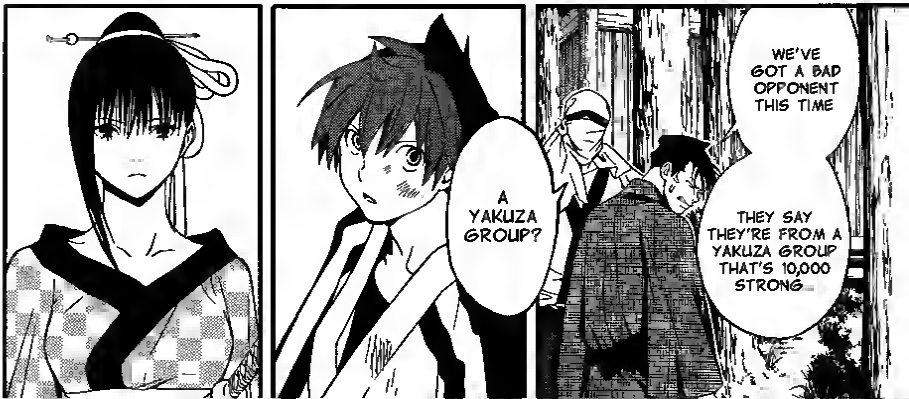

I HAVE TO PAY THAT PERSON 100 RYOU TOO, SO
EHH?!


AH
NO.
U-HH, YOU SEE...
HEY, YOU. WHAT IS THIS 100 RYOU SHE'S TALKING ABOUT?

YES!
WELL, A, ABOUT THAT, I WAS THINKING THAT I COULD FORGET ABOUT IT.....
WHAT'S THIS, A DISPUTE?

NO NEED TO REFRAIN. AREN'T YOU THE ONE THAT ASKED ME TO COME IN CASE THERE WAS A DISPUTE?
AH, NO, THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO GET INVOLVED, SENSEI*

TL NOTE: "SENSEI" CAN BE USED SIMPLY AS AN HONORIFIC.



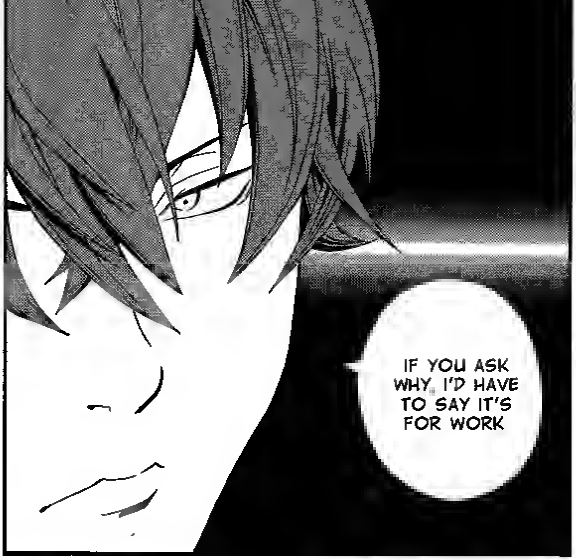
MM?
NO, NO, THESE GUYS ARE JUST BENRIYAS.
EH...?!
WHO IS THIS GUY?!

SO WE MEET AGAIN.
AH-! YOU'RE KANAKO MATAHA-CHIROU!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
A, AN ACQUAIN-TANCE?
!

I SHOULD'VE SAID 「SO WE MEET AGAIN」. AND THEN TAKEN OFF MY VEIL-!!
ばばばば
あああ
AH-! DAMN IT!!

OKAY, ONE MORE TIME WITH THE ENTRANCE SCENE-
LIKE WE'D ACTUALLY LET YOU!
WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY...

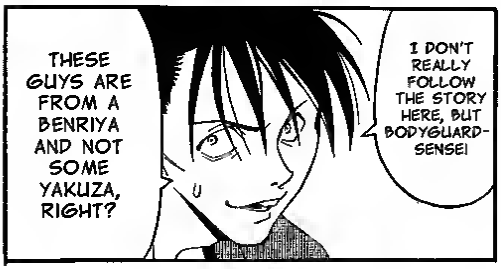
THE KID GOES, 「EH...?」
THEN... WITH MY VEIL STILL ON, I SAY, 「SO WE MEET AGAIN」. THE KID GOES, 「WHO ARE YOU?!」
THEN I SLOWLY TAKE OFF MY VEIL AND SHOW MY FACE, TADA-
「AH-!! YOU'RE!!」. THIS IS THE FLOW I SHOULD'VE GONE WITH!
ぱっ
ぱっ
ぱっ
ぱっ
THIS AGAIN?!!


IF YOU ASK WHY, I'D HAVE TO SAY IT'S FOR WORK

WAIT, ANSWER ME!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

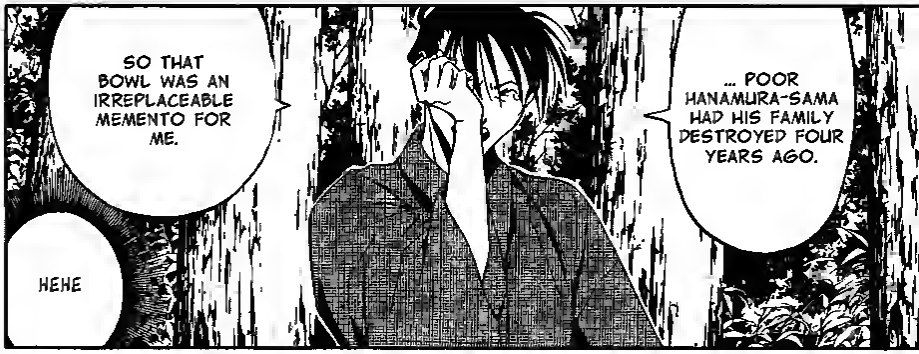
-HEH
KUH.. WHY NOW OF ALL TIMES.....?!

WORK?
AFTER SEPARATING FROM YOU GUYS, I LEFT FOR EDO TOO, AND STARTED A BUSINESS AS A SWORDSMAN FOR HIRE.
-TODAY'S MY COMMEMORABLE FIRST JOB.


I DON'T REALLY FOLLOW THE STORY HERE, BUT BODYGUARD-SENSEI
THESE GUYS ARE FROM A BENRIYA AND NOT SOME YAKUZA, RIGHT?

YEAH, I CAN CONFIRM IT.
THEN THERE'S NO NEED TO BE SCARED!
HEY, NEE-CHAN! THE 100 RYOU YOU PROMISED!
IF YOU CAN'T PAY, I'LL HAVE YOU COME WITH ME!
EEK
YOU PHONY BASTARD! QUIT IT WITH YOUR RIDICULOUS ACCUSATIONS!
A BOWL WORTH 100 RYOU? YOU RECEIVED IT FROM A NOBLE FAMILY?
THOSE ARE ALL LIES!!
YOU DON'T GET TO DECIDE THAT!!
LISTEN, THE BOWL THIS NEE-CHAN BROKE, IS SOMETHING I RECEIVED WHILE I WAS SERING AT THE HANAMURA VASSAL FAMILY'S MANSION.
I RECEIVED THAT ITEM FROM ITS MASTER, HANAMURA ICHINOSHIN-SAMA!!

ISN'T HANAMURA .....
..... HUH?

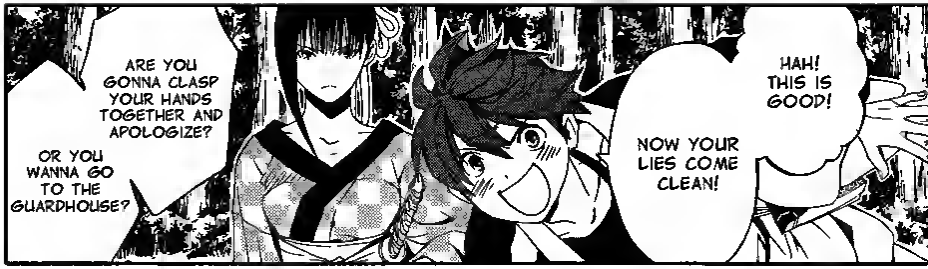

... POOR HANAMURA-SAMA HAD HIS FAMILY DESTROYED FOUR YEARS AGO.
SO THAT BOWL WAS AN IRREPLACEABLE MEMENTO FOR ME.
HEHE

THE INCIDENT WITH THE BOWL WAS A COMPLETE LIE, BUT
Ktw Ktw Ktw
THE FACT THAT THE HANAMURA VASSAL FAMILY WAS DESTROYED IS TRUE
MIX IN SOME TRUTH WITH THE LIE- THIS IS THE TRICK TO DECEIT...
HOO
A SERVANT IN THE HANAMURA FAMILY.

BUT I DON'T RECOGNIZE YOUR FACE...
HE- THAT MAKES YOU SORTA BIG...
-WAIT, EH?!
I AM THE HANAMURA FAMILY'S DAUGHTER, RIE...!
HANAMURA ICHINOSHIN IS MY FATHER.
HAAH? SO WHAT IF YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE IT.

I'D LIKE TO SEE THIS BOWL YOU SUPPOSEDLY RECEIVED FROM MY FATHER!

YOU MUST'VE THOUGHT YOU WOULDN'T BE CAUGHT OUT IF YOU THREW OUT THE NAME OF A FAMILY THAT'S BEEN DESTROYED, BUT
IT SEEMS IT'S CAUSED YOUR DOWNFALL INSTEAD.


ARE YOU GONNA CLASP YOUR HANDS TOGETHER AND APOLOGIZE?
OR YOU WANNA GO TO THE GUARDHOUSE?
HAH! THIS IS GOOD!
NOW YOUR LIES COME CLEAN!

SENSEI, PLEASE CAUSE THESE GUYS A LITTLE PAIN!
I CAN'T JUST LET THIS GO!

KUH... AND I ALMOST HAD IT.

HEY, WHAT IS THIS?
ARE YOU GONNA LISTEN TO THAT PETTY, PHONY BASTARD?
...I'LL BE NEEDING PAYMENT.
EVEN IF HE IS A PETTY, PHONY BASTARD, HE'S STILL MY CLIENT.
DON'T WORRY, I'LL JUST ROUGH YOU GUYS UP A LITTLE BIT.

WELL... THAT'S WHAT IT COMES DOWN TO, HUH.
TODAY WON'T TURN OUT LIKE LAST TIME!

H... HEY, IS THIS ALRIGHT...
THAT GUY LOOKS LIKE AN IDIOT, BUT HE'S STRONG WHEN HE WIELDS A SWORD-
はらはら
!
I WON!

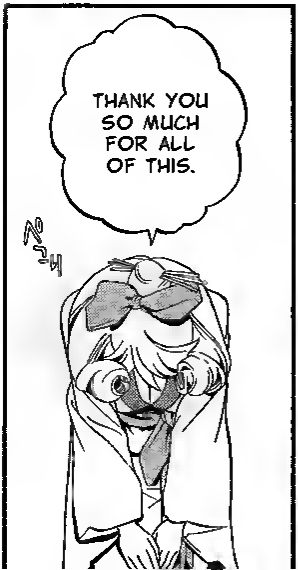
AN AFTER-IMAGE?
I KNEW IT, YOU'RE GOOD, WOMAN!!
BUT THIS'LL END IT.
GRIP

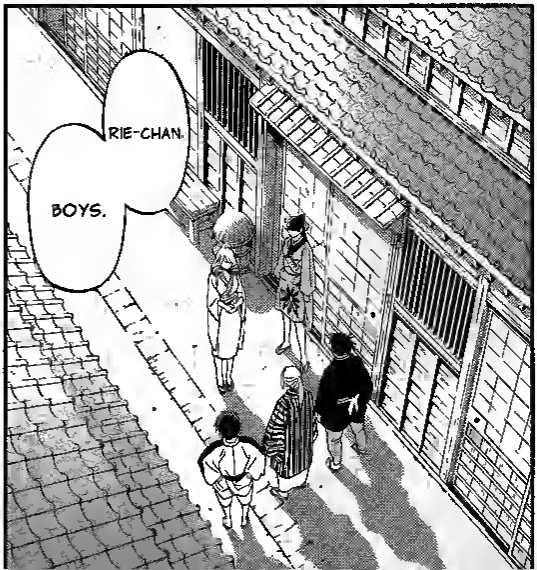
TL NOTE: PHANTOM HELL STYLE, HIDDEN SWORD.

はぐ

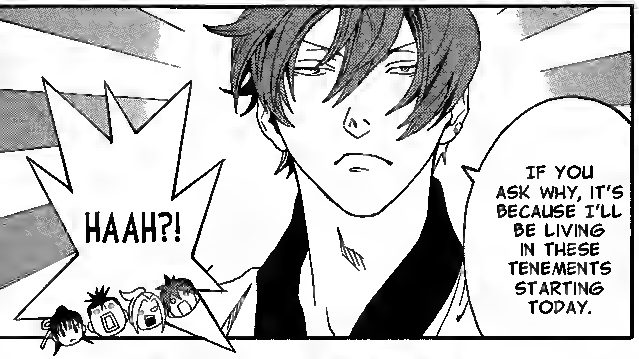
NO-♡
DRIP
……
FAIL...
どく
どく
どく
ちだまり
だー
MAN, HE WAS ONLY HIT WITH THE BACK OF THE SWORD, BUT LOOK AT ALL THIS BLOOD!

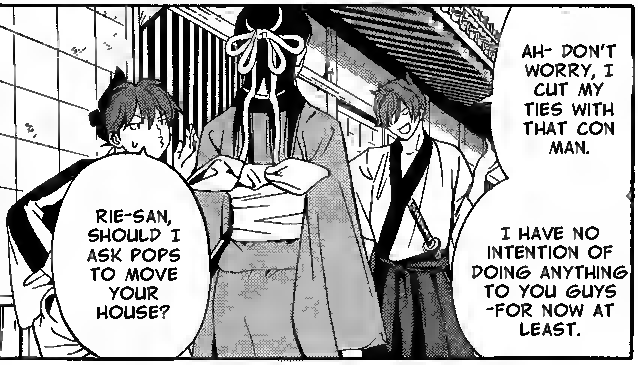
I... I'M SORRY-!!


THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL OF THIS.


RIE-CHAN.
BOYS.

N, NO PROBLEM-
ULTIMATELY, IT WAS BASICALLY ORIN-
BUT, I GUESS THERE REALLY ARE SOME BAD APPLES IN THIS WORLD.
REALLY.
BUT BECAUSE THERE ARE GUYS LIKE THAT, THERE'S A PLACE FOR BUSINESSES LIKE MINE.


HAAH?!
IF YOU ASK WHY, IT'S BECAUSE I'LL BE LIVING IN THESE TENEMENTS STARTING TODAY.


RIE-SAN, SHOULD I ASK POPS TO MOVE YOUR HOUSE?
AH- DON'T WORRY, I CUT MY TIES WITH THAT CON MAN.
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF DOING ANYTHING TO YOU GUYS -FOR NOW AT LEAST.

NO, BUSINESSES LIKE YOURS .....
WAIT. HEY!
WHY ARE YOU STANDING WITH US SO NONCHALANTLY?? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

MM? IS THIS YOUR HOUSE BY ANY CHANCE?
IT'S ALRIGHT, IT'S NOT LIKE I MOVED NEXT DOOR TO YOU.
I MOVED NEXT NEXT DOOR.
THAT'S PRETTY DAMN CLOSE!
UHH... I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...
BUT I'M SURPRISED
THAT YOU'RE A DAUGHTER OF A VASSAL FAMILY.
THAT'S ALL IN THE PAST
BESIDES, I'VE BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO THIS LIFE.
みぁ
みぁ～

GEN..?

I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR YOU.
RIE-DONO.

YOUR FORMER FIANCEE'S FACE.
-OH
DID YOU FORGET AFTER THESE FOUR YEARS?
GEN'NOJOU-SAMA
THE ONE AND ONLY MAN SHE LOVED. SUDDENLY, A TALE OF LOVE...